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Second session
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Agenda item 7

DRAFT REPORT OF THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON COMPARATIVE EXPERIENCES WITH PRIVATIZATION ON ITS SECOND SESSION

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
from 7 to 11 June 1993

Rapporteur: Mr. Herbert Dzvimbo (Zimbabwe)

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INTRODUCTION

1. In accordance with the UNCTAD calendar of meetings, the second session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Comparative Experiences with Privatization was held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, from 7 to 11 June 1993.

Opening statements

2. The **Chief of the Privatization and Enterprise Development Unit** said that the secretariat was very grateful for, and encouraged by, the large number of national presentations received, which provided a strong indicator of the great interest shown by Governments in the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group. A total of 27 such contributions had been received from Governments since the first session of the Ad Hoc Working Group had been held in December 1992, most of them in response to a detailed questionnaire sent out by the secretariat. Four of these had expanded on the contributions already submitted to the first session. Adding the latter to the new contributions received, the total amounted to 36 national presentations. The short lapse of time between the two sessions had imposed a heavy time pressure on Governments, and it was therefore all the more remarkable that so many original, high-quality contributions had been received.

3. The secretariat had also had to operate under great time pressure to prepare the cross-country analysis (TD/B/WG.3/7) and various other documents for the session. As regards the cross-country analysis, while an effort had been made to compare, highlight and, to the extent possible, synthesize the elements contained in the national submissions, the secretariat was aware that it could not do full justice to the wealth of the material contained in the latter. Nor could it attempt to summarize some 5,000 pages of texts into a 35-page document; some selectivity had therefore to be exercised. Further, a cut-off point had to be set for the preparation of the cross-country analysis in order to ensure that it was available in time for the session. This meant that some of the national contributions could not be fully taken into account; some that had arrived after the cut-off date had not been used at all. The secretariat would also have wished to research various parts of the analysis, but this had not been possible because of the time pressure. The secretariat would update and improve the analysis, taking into account in particular those contributions that had not been used fully or at all. Meanwhile, the secretariat would welcome the comments of Governments on the cross-country analysis.

4. In addition to the cross-country analysis, the Ad Hoc Working Group had before it a compilation of the 13 country presentations submitted to the first session, the new 27 individual country presentations, a preliminary edition of an annotated bibliography on privatization and of a directory of national focal points on privatization, as well as information on the activities of international organizations which had been reproduced in the form in which they had been received. In addition, copies of written contributions prepared by members of the panel would also be available.

Chapter I

REVIEW OF THE COUNTRY PRESENTATIONS IN THE LIGHT OF A CROSS-COUNTRY ANALYSIS BY THE SECRETARIAT ON THE DESIGN, IMPLEMENTATION AND RESULTS OF PRIVATIZATION PROGRAMMES

(Agenda item 3)

5. For its consideration of this item, the Ad Hoc Working Group had before it the following report by the UNCTAD secretariat:

> "Design, implementation and results of privatization programmes: a cross-country analysis of national experiences" (TD/B/WG.3/7)

6. In addition, the country presentations submitted to the secretariat were circulated to the Working Group in the miscellaneous documents series. (For the list of such presentations, see checklist of documents in annex ... below).

[To be completed as appropriate]

Chapter II

IN-DEPTH CONSIDERATION OF:

(i) TECHNIQUES FOR PRIVATIZATION;

(ii) FINANCING OF PRIVATIZATION, INCLUDING THE ROLE OF FOREIGN INVESTMENT, INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES AND BILATERAL DONORS

(Agenda item 4)

7. A number of documents made available to the Ad Hoc Working Group in the miscellaneous series were relevant to the Group's consideration of this item. (See checklist of documents in annex ... below).

[To be completed as appropriate]

Chapter III

ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. Opening of the session

(i) The second session of the Ad Hoc Working Group was opened on 7 June 1993 by Mr. Bror Wahlroos (Finland), Chairman of the Working Group.

B. Election of officers

(Agenda item 1)

(ii) At its 3rd (opening) plenary meeting, on 7 June 1993, the Working Group elected Ms. Prapada Saranusit (Thailand) as Vice-Chairman, to replace Ms. Panada Thurkhao (Thailand) who was unable to attend the second session. Similarly, at its 4th plenary meeting, on 8 June 1993, the Working Group elected Ms. Carmen Silva (Colombia) as Vice-Chairman, to replace Mr. Ricardo Avila (Colombia).

(iii) Accordingly, the Bureau of the Ad Hoc Working Group at its second session was as follows:

Chairman:	Mr. Bror Wahlroos	(Finland)
Vice-Chairmen:	Ms. Taos Feroukhi	(Algeria)
	Ms. Carmen Silva	(Colombia)
	Mr. Thomas Janicki	(Germany)
	Ms. Urszula Calka-Jendroszczyk	(Poland)
	Ms. Prapada Saranusit	(Thailand)
Rapporteur:	Mr. Herbert Dzvimbo	(Zimbabwe)

C. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

(Agenda item 2)

(iv) At the same meeting, the Working Group adopted the provisional agenda for the second session as approved by the Group at its first session and circulated by the secretariat in TD/B/WG.3/6. The agenda for the second session therefore read as follows:

1. Election of officers

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

3. Review of the country presentations in the light of a cross-country analysis by the secretariat on the design, implementation and results of privatization programmes

4. In-depth consideration of:

   (i) Techniques for privatization;

   (ii) Financing of privatization, including the role of foreign investment, international agencies and bilateral donors

5. Provisional agenda for the third session of the Ad Hoc Working Group

6. Other business

7. Adoption of the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group to the Board.

(v) The Working Group also broadly endorsed the suggested organization of work set out in section III of TD/B/WG.3/6, subject to clarifications of detail made by the Chairman.

D. Provisional agenda for the third session of the Ad Hoc Working Group

(Agenda item 5)

[To be completed]

E. Adoption of the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group to the Board

(Agenda item 7)

[To be completed]